Serial No. 09/833,036
Art Unit: 1753
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In the claims:

Please cancel claim 15, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of coating a substrate, comprising:

providing a substrate having a surface;

forming a polymeric layer on the surface of the substrate by electrophoretically applying a layer of a polymeric precursor to at least a portion of the surface;

polymerizing the polymeric precursor to form a polymerized layer; and

applying a metal coating to at least a portion of the polymerized layer;

wherein the metal coating is applied under sub-atmospheric conditions, and wherein the step of forming the polymerized layer includes elevating the temperature of the polymeric precursor to a temperature of at least about 320°F.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the polymeric precursor is selected from the group consisting of acrylics, epoxies, urethanes, and combinations thereof.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the substrate is porous, and further comprising leveling the surface of the substrate before the step of applying the metal coating.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the metal coating is applied using a physical vapor deposition method.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of removing a portion of the polymerized layer before applying the metallic coating.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising cleaning at least the polymerized layer before the step of removing a portion of the polymerized layer.

9. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the metal coating is applied in a pressure range of about $5x10^{-4}$ millitorr to about $2x10^{-3}$ millitorr.

10. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the metal coating is applied by evaporation.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising maintaining the polymeric precursor at the temperature for at least about 12 minutes.

12. (Original) A method of coating a surface, comprising:

providing a substrate;

coating at least a portion of the substrate with a layer of an electrophoretically applied polymeric precursor;

polymerizing the polymeric precursor to form a first polymeric coating; and

elevating the temperature of the polymeric coating to at least about 400°F for at least about 6 minutes.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising applying a layer of metal over at least a portion of the polymeric coating.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising applying a second polymeric coating over the layer of metal.

15. (Canceled)

16-24 (Canceled)

25. (Original) A method of coating a substrate, comprising:

providing a substrate having a porous surface;

forming a polymeric layer on the surface of the substrate by electrophoretically applying a layer of a polymeric precursor to at least a portion of the surface;

polymerizing the polymeric precursor to form a polymerized layer; and

applying a metal coating to at least a portion of the polymerized layer;

wherein the metal coating is applied under sub-atmospheric conditions; and

wherein the surface of the substrate is leveled before the step of applying the metal coating.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the step of forming the polymerized layer includes elevating the temperature of the polymeric precursor to a temperature of at least about 320°F.

27. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the polymeric precursor is selected from the group consisting of acrylics, epoxies, urethanes, and combinations thereof.

28. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the metal coating is applied using a physical vapor deposition method.

29. (Original) The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of removing a portion of the polymerized layer before applying the metal coating.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, further comprising cleaning at least the polymerized layer before the step of removing a portion of the polymerized layer.

31. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the metal coating is applied in a pressure range of about $5x10^{-4}$ millitorr to about $2x10^{-5}$ millitorr.

32. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the metal coating is applied by evaporation.

33. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising maintaining the polymeric precursor at the temperature for at least about 12 minutes.